

Press Conference on Corporation for Public Broadcasting Cuts

In Republicans' Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution

February 16, 2011

Good morning.

It's not every day that a Congressman gets to hang out with the world's most popular [talking](#) aardvark. Thank you for being here today, Arthur.

We're here this morning to push back against efforts by Republicans in Congress to eliminate support for one of the most precious landmarks on the entire media landscape.

Public broadcasting is an electronic oasis for learning in what has been called the vast wasteland of commercial television.

In fact, if public broadcasting did not exist, we would be trying right now to invent it. Why is that? Well, one glance at what is on commercial over-the-air television this week is illustrative.

Here's just a short sampling of what's on television today....

There's the spate of daytime soap operas, which are full of adult themes not appropriate for young children, and then there are programs such as "Hoarding, Buried Alive" and "The Babysitter's Seduction" - again, more programming not suitable for children.

In addition, there's "Hollywood's Most Shocking Breakups" and "Dog, the Bounty Hunter" - and no, they're not talking about Clifford [the Big Red Dog](#).

Ladies and gentlemen, there's simply no comparison when you look over at public broadcasting.

On a typical local public broadcasting station, there's a line-up of content during the day that is a parent or a teacher's best friend.....for instance, on WGBH in Boston, or WETA here in Washington - and stations all across the country -- from 6am until 6pm, there are 12 hours of high quality kids shows. Let me just read the lineup from a typical day.....

At 6am, there's WGBH's award-winning Between the Lions, then Clifford the Big Red Dog and Arthur ([Thank you, Arthur](#)), followed by Martha Speaks, Curious George, Dinosaur Train and Word World- which brings us to noontime.

And then rather than soap operas in the afternoon, on public broadcasting the kids get to see Sid the Science Kid, WordGirl and The Electric Company and on and on with other quality educational shows all the way until we hit the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer at 7pm.

There is simply no comparison.

CPB doesn't just stand for Corporation for Public Broadcasting, it also stands for:

**“Children and Parents Benefit”**

In spite of this, the Republicans are proposing to eliminate funding for public broadcasting to undermine support for many of these children's shows.

The public broadcasting system has long been the crown jewel in our national media mix.

That's why I'm pleased to be joined by my colleagues here in fighting this misguided elimination of funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

We're going to offer an amendment on the House Floor to restore the full \$460 million in funding for public broadcasting.

Republicans have tilted the fiscal scales in favor of Big Oil at the expense of public broadcasting.

They're lavishing hundreds of millions of dollars a year in tax breaks on Big Oil and Big Gas while leaving Arthur and his pals in the lurch.

That's why we're going to repeal [a portion](#) of the Internal Revenue Code, removing the sweetheart deals for oil and gas wells and applying those savings to public broadcasting.

Eliminating this special deal for Big Oil and Big Gas for a single year will save \$607 million, and over ten years will save taxpayers \$11 billion.

According our amendment, after CPB funding is restored, remaining funds are directed towards deficit reduction.